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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,055	03/14/2001	Norihisa Okada	503.39842X00	2640

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EXAMINER


SIMONE, CATHERINE A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1772

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/805,055	Applicant(s) OKADA ET AL. 	
	Examiner Catherine Simone	Art Unit 1772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 10-40 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12-40 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/22/03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Withdrawn Rejections

1. The 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection of claims 1, 12, 21 and 22 as anticipated by Clark of record in the Office Action mailed 9/24/03, Pages 2-4, Paragraph #5 has been withdrawn due to the Applicant's amendment filed 1/26/04.
2. The 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of claims 10, 11, 13 and 15-17 over Clark of record in the Office Action mailed 9/24/03, Pages 4-5, Paragraph #7 has been withdrawn due to the Applicant's amendment filed 1/26/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 1, 10 and 11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Palfey et al. (US 4,078,959).

Palfey et al. discloses a composite panel comprising a first flat face sheet (Figs. 2 and 3, #10), a second flat face sheet (Figs. 2 and 3, #14), and a flat center core member (Figs. 2 and 3, #12) provided between the first flat face sheet and the second flat face sheet, characterized in that the flat center core member (Figs. 2 and 3, #12) has a thickness greater than that of the second flat face sheet (Figs. 2 and 3, #14); a length of the first flat face sheet (Figs. 2 and 3, #10) is equal

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to a length of the flat center core member (Figs. 2 and 3, #12); an end portion of the second flat face sheet (Figs. 2 and 3, #14) is positioned shorter than an end portion of the flat center core member (Figs. 2 and 3, #12); and a whole face of the first flat face sheet (Figs. 2 and 3, #10) is adhered to substantially a whole face of the flat center core member (Figs. 2 and 3, #12); and the flat center core member (Figs. 2 and 3, #12) in a side of the end portion of the second flat face sheet (Figs. 2 and 3, #14) is not adhered to the second flat face sheet, whereby the second flat face sheet is partially adhered to the flat center core member. Regarding **claim 10**, note each of the first flat face sheet and the second flat face sheet is formed from a metal plate, a fiber reinforced plastic and paper (see col. 2, lines 4-9 and lines 67-68). Regarding **claim 11**, note the flat center core member is formed from a foam material (see col. 1, line 51).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 12-40 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the recited composite panel structure. Independent claims 12, 23 and 29 identify the uniquely distinct feature of a second flat face sheet "having a first end portion adhered to a first end portion of the second major surface of the flat center core member, and a second end portion including a second end terminating short of a second end of the flat center core member, the second end portion of the second flat face sheet not being adhered to the second major surface of the flat center core member." The closest prior art of record, Palfey et al. (U.S. 4,078,959), discloses a composite panel having a second flat face sheet which either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious the above limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 10 and 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Catherine Simone whose telephone number is (571)272-1501. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Catherine Simone
Examiner
Art Unit 1772
April 14, 2004



HAROLD PYON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1772

4/14/04